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August 9, 2005

Ex Parte

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 8, 2005, Amy Rosenthal, Jonathan Smith and the undersigned of Verizon, met with Jessica Rosenworcel of Commissioner Copps' office, and on August 9, 2005, Amy Rosenthal and the undersigned met with Scott Bergmann of Commissioner Adelstein's office. In each of these meetings, Verizon explained its position on phantom traffic. The attached handout was used as a basis for discussion in the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Epps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Attachment

cc: Tamara Preiss
Steve Morris



Phantom Traffic

August 8, 2005

Phantom Traffic

What is Phantom Traffic?



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- ♦ **“Phantom Traffic” is a term that has been used to refer to two types of traffic:**

(1) traffic that purportedly lacks identification of the carrier to be billed; and

(2) traffic that purportedly lacks sufficient information to jurisdictionalize a call for billing purposes such as Calling Party Number (CPN) and Charge Number (CN).

Phantom Traffic

I. Carrier Identification



- ♦ **The carrier to be billed can be identified by either a Carrier Identification Code (CIC code) or an Operating Company Number (OCN).**
 - Industry standards establish when OCN versus CIC should be used on terminating access records.
 - Understanding industry standards regarding use of CIC or OCN aids carriers using terminating access records to identify the carrier to be billed.

- ♦ **For the great majority of calls that transit Verizon's network, Verizon provides the terminating carrier with a terminating access record that shows either a CIC code or an OCN for each call.**
 - For example, in a recent sample study of over 80K terminating access records sent to 6 RLECs, 100 percent of those records contained either a CIC or OCN.
 - Verizon has assisted other carriers in understanding carrier identification data on terminating access records.

II. Jurisdictional Information



- ♦ **What is the relevant jurisdictional information?**
 - CPN
 - CN
 - Jurisdictional Information Parameter (JIP)
- ♦ **For most types of traffic, Verizon provides terminating carriers with the CPN/CN it receives via a terminating access record. Although SS7 is primarily designed for routing – not billing – Verizon also provides any CPN, CN and JIP it receives via SS7 signaling.**
- ♦ **In some cases, Verizon receives invalid, inaccurate or missing CPN/CN. In those instances, Verizon can only pass along the data it receives.**



- ♦ **Reasons Verizon may receive invalid, inaccurate or missing CPN/CN:**
 - Use of MF signaling
 - Intentional acts by third parties to mask call's jurisdiction
- ♦ **Reasons CPN/CN may not indicate proper jurisdiction:**
 - VOIP traffic
 - Wireless roaming
 - 1-800 traffic
- ♦ **Reasons signaled information may differ from billing information:**
 - Traffic misrouted by others can create the appearance of phantom traffic
 - Originating carriers' failure to route calls pursuant to the LERG
 - IXC failure to query LNP database in order to route traffic to proper terminating carrier.

Phantom Traffic

Impact to Verizon



- ♦ **Verizon is not immune to billing problems associated with invalid or inaccurate CPN/CN.**
 - Approximately 20 percent of all traffic that's delivered to Verizon's network lacks a valid CPN/CN.
 - Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of those calls terminate on Verizon's network.
 - The remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ is transit traffic that terminates on other carriers' networks.
 - Transit traffic lacking valid CPN/CN negatively impacts Verizon's ability to bill for transit.

Phantom Traffic

Verizon's Response to Phantom Traffic



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- ◆ **Verizon has addressed phantom traffic through its contractual arrangements.**
 - Use of factors to jurisdictionalize traffic with invalid or missing CPN/CN.
 - Contractual provisions for traffic with invalid or missing CPN/CN.
 - ◆ **Other carriers can employ similar methods to address phantom traffic.**
 - These methods are available for transiting traffic as well, because Verizon provides the identity of the carrier to be billed.

Phantom Traffic Summary



- 1) Verizon attempts to provide terminating carriers with the information they need to identify the appropriate carrier to be billed.**
- 2) Concerns about invalid CPN/CN and fraud are industry-wide problems for all carriers.**
- 3) Tandem providers that identify the carrier to be billed should not be held responsible for inaccurate or invalid information received from those carriers.**